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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
2 January 1963

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Congo Developments Since 24 December

1. Tensions between UN and Katangan forces in Elisabethville, which had been rising, resulted in a clash on 24 December. Drunken Katangan gendarmes reportedly out of control of their officers opened fire on UN Ethiopian troops near the Union Miniere Lubumbashi plant on the outskirts of Elisabethville. Although UN officials claim that the Ethiopians held their fire, it seems certain they returned some fire. A UN helicopter sent to investigate was grounded by Katangan gunfire, the crew captured and beaten; one crew member later died of wounds. The clash ended when the Indian brigade commander brought up a reinforced Indian battalion and demanded the return of the UN helicopter and crew, which Katangans promptly agreed to do.

2. According to UN officials, general firing by Katangans on UN position around Elisabethville began again on night of 27 December. Firing continued on the 28th. UN officials made extended efforts to get Tshombe to halt the firing, but he was either unable or unwilling to do so. UN officials said they thought Tshombe had lost control of his troops. UN officials also unsuccessfully sought to get Tshombe to agree to remove the Katangan roadblocks around Elisabethville. UN forces on 29 December removed the roadblocks and virtually took over Elisabethville. Tshombe, however, escaped, apparently to Kipushi, a town just south of Elisabethville. UN planes attacked the airfield, at Kolwezi, northwest of Elisabethville, destroying at least six Katangan planes on the ground.

3. On 30 December, UN troops--apparently without orders from Leopoldville or New York--took Kipushi without opposition, extended their

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control around Elisabethville, and began to move toward Jadotville. UN troops moved out of the Kamina base to take the town of Kaminaville, 18 miles away. Tshombe arrived in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, aboard a Rhodesian military plane. Later on 30 December, U Thant announced in New York that UN military operations in Katanga had been successfully completed.

4. Tshombe, after talks with Rhodesian Prime Minister Welensky, apparently returned to Katanga on 31 December, probably to Kolwezi. The UN tightened its hold on Elisabethville, which has remained generally calm despite the killing of a Belgian woman by Ethiopian troops and unrest in the African quarter of the city fomented by anti-Tshombe tribes. Also on 31 December Thant issued a long statement in New York, calling for a halt in military operations and speedy implementation of the reconciliation plan by both Tshombe and Adoula.

5. On 1 January in Leopoldville, Adoula formally recessed the Congolese Parliament until March. Tshombe announced from Jadotville late on 1 January that he would come to Elisabethville if his freedom were guaranteed and the US, UK, and Belgian consuls would escort him from the Lufira river near Jadotville.

6. UN commanders in Katanga, however, convinced of the necessity for maintaining military pressure, have continued to advance against minimal resistance. On 2 January a column moving from Elisabethville, having bridged the Lufira river, was reportedly approaching Jadotville, while other UN troops were advancing south from Kamina.

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